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14 July 1960

Copy No. C 70

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



DOCUMENT NO. 12
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S 8
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2012
AUTH: HA 1-2
DATE: 9 JUN 1980 REVIEWER: 

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State Dept. review completed

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Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A005200120001-0

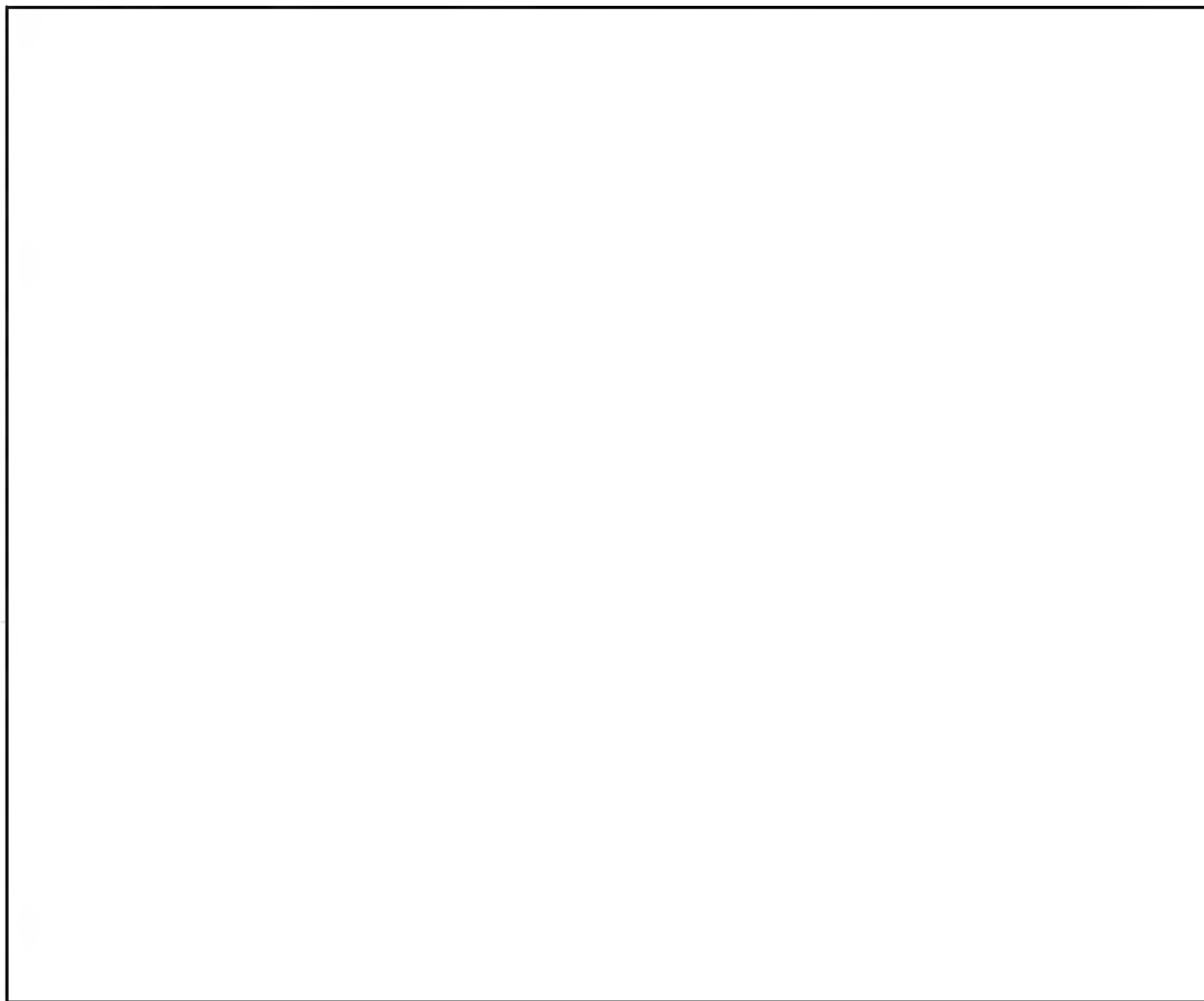
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DAILY BRIEF



II. ASIA-AFRICA

Republic of the Congo: The situation in Leopoldville Province--the scene of sporadic fighting between Belgian paratroops and mutinous units of the Force Publique--appears critical. The American Embassy reports that an



imminent food shortage in Leopoldville, together with the failure of many Congolese to receive salaries from employers who have fled, could lead to civilian rioting. Belgian reinforcements totaling about 350 paratroops occupied Leopoldville on 13 July, after other Belgian troops had been repulsed by mutineers at the port of Matadi the previous day.

Premier Lumumba has renewed demands for the removal of Belgian forces, apparently on the assumption that a UN police force will ultimately be dispatched to restore order. In Katanga Province, provincial premier Moise Tshombé has hedged on his 11 July announcement of an "independent" Katanga, and in the absence of Belgian recognition may be prepared to "rejoin" the Congo if guaranteed a sufficient measure of internal autonomy. [REDACTED]

*Moscow's statement of 13 July accusing the five Western powers of seeking to "liquidate" the new Congo state through direct military action and under cover of the United Nations is apparently designed to encourage Lumumba to resist any outside intervention, as well as further the Soviet pose as the protector of the newly independent African states. [REDACTED]

India: The response among India's 2,000,000 government workers to the 12 July strike call by socialist and Communist labor leaders continues spotty, but incidents of violence and sabotage are reported increasing. Non-strikers, supervisors, and army reservists are maintaining most of the essential services in such seriously affected areas as Bombay and Calcutta. [REDACTED] The unions are reported planning for a long siege, and they may be aided by a 24-hour sympathy strike threatened by Communist and socialist unions in nongovernment fields. Their capability to hold out is limited, however, especially in the face of an apparently unyielding attitude on the part of the government. [REDACTED]

Somali Republic: The selection of Abdirasid Ali Scermarche as premier-designate of the newly independent Somali Republic appears to reflect tribal realignments and to have ended the political stalemate. Each of the main regions--former British Somaliland and the Italian-administered trust territory of Somalia--now has received a major political office in the government. [REDACTED] The premier-designate, reportedly a devout Moslem opposed

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DAILY BRIEF

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[] (to Communist penetration, will probably favor pro-Western policies and seek to delay Somali acceptance of recent Soviet offers of diplomatic representation and economic assistance. []

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[] **III. WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS**

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[] With respect to the question of Sino-Soviet bloc intentions to initiate hostilities, the Watch Committee Conclusions remain negative. []

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Somali Political Stalemate Eases

The selection of Abdirascid Ali Scermarche as premier-designate of the newly independent Somali Republic appears to reflect tribal realignments and to have ended the political stalemate there. The National Assembly is expected to give him a vote of confidence when he presents his government within the next 30 days, as required by the constitution.

The new state is composed of the former British protectorate of Somaliland and the former Italian-administered trust territory of Somalia. Since the nation achieved independence on 1 July, there has been tension between political leaders of the two areas--including threats of secession--over issues such as distribution of the top political posts and the early integration of the British-trained security force from Somaliland into the republic's army. Disagreements have been heightened by tribal animosities.

Abdirascid, who is considered pro-Western and is reportedly a devout Moslem opposed to Communist penetration, is expected to delay any acceptance of recent Soviet offers to exchange diplomatic representatives and to furnish economic assistance. However, he is relatively inexperienced; he did not hold a ministerial position in the previous government; and his inflexibility in dealing with politicians may create early difficulties for him in view of Somalia's reputation for personal politics and former Premier of Somalia Abdullahi Issa's expected efforts to regain power.

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Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A005200120001-0

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